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November 30, 2018

The Honorable Cory Gardner
The United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Good Samaritan Legislation

Dear Senator Gardner:

The American Exploration & Mining Association appreciates your long-standing leadership on the need to advance Good Samaritan legislation to enhance the clean-up of historic, pre-regulation abandoned mines. AEMA has been a strong supporter of Good Samaritan legislation and has testified in support of such legislation before Senate and House committees.

Your staff has shared with us your “Good Samaritan Remediation of Orphaned Hardrock Mines Act of 2018.” We have reviewed this legislation and fully support its introduction at the earliest opportunity. As you know, it has been difficult to find bipartisan consensus on Good Samaritan legislation. We believe your pilot project approach provides an opportunity to achieve bipartisan support for Good Samaritan legislation to be approved by both the Senate and the House and signed into law.

AEMA is a 123-year old, 2,000-member national association representing the minerals industry with members residing in 42 U.S. states, seven Canadian provinces or territories, and 8 other countries. AEMA is the recognized national voice for exploration, the junior mining sector, and maintaining access to public lands, and represents the entire mining life cycle, from exploration to reclamation and closure. More than 80% of our members are small businesses or work for small businesses.

AEMA members stand ready, willing and able to support this legislation and assist your office in achieving bipartisan support and passage. Now is the time to enact Good Samaritan legislation.

Thank you again for your strong leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Laura Skaer'.

Laura Skaer
Executive Director